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| EXAMINER |
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ROWAN, KURT C

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3643

DATE MAILED: 01/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/806,223

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

Examiner

Kurt Rowan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-123 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-123 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date December 9, 2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Double Patenting***

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-123 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-50 of U.S. Patent No. 6,286,249. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they are obvious in view of the previously patented claims. Claims 1, 24, 39, 50, 83, and 112 recite methods and devices for capturing insects having an insect trap with an airflow generator for generating an outflow and an inflow both connected to respective outflow opening and an inlet opening. Claims 1, 10, 48, 49 of the '249 patent recite an insect trap having flow mechanism which corresponds to the airflow generator. The '249 patent also recites an outflow channel which corresponds to the outflow opening recited in claim 1 of the present application. The '249 patent recites an inflow directed through an inflow channel which corresponds to the

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inlet opening. Claims 48 and 49 of the '249 patent state that the inflow is directed to the flow near an upper edge of the outflow outside of the trap and that the outflow is directed towards the ground which corresponds to the limitation that the inlet opening is positioned vertically higher than the outlet opening since then a lower edge of the tube would inherently be below the inlet opening. Claim 10 of the '249 patent recites that the inflow is substantially counter to the outflow of the device. Hence the claims of the present invention are obvious over the claims of the '249 patent since the same elements are recited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-123 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheshire in view of Waters.

The patents to Cheshire and Waters show insect traps. Cheshire does not show a carbon dioxide attractant. The patent to Waters shows a carbon dioxide insect attractant noting Fig. 1 and lines 1-12 in column 3. The carbon dioxide attractant flows into trap 11 by connecting tube 14 from reaction chamber 12. In reference to claims 12, 31, 35, it would have been obvious to provide Cheshire with a carbon dioxide attractant as shown by Waters to attract more insects to the trap. In reference to claims 32, 33, 34, the proposed combination does not

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disclose where the carbon dioxide is supplied in relation to the fan. However, it would have been obvious to supply carbon dioxide to a point above the fan to more effectively disperse the carbon dioxide to an area surrounding the trap to attract more insects. In reference to claim 36, 37, Waters does not disclose a tank but a reaction chamber. However, it would have been obvious to employ a tank to hold the carbon dioxide as opposed to generating the carbon dioxide in a reaction chamber since the function is the same and no stated problem is solved. The examiner takes Official Notice that carbon dioxide tanks are well known in the art relating to the trapping of flying insects.

The patent to Cheshire shows an insect trap in Figs. 1-4 having a fan that generates air in an outflow using motion and heat to attract insects that flows outwardly from the device to create a plume flowing downwardly and spreading in the radial direction from the device. Cheshire shows an inflow substantially counter to and immediately adjacent an upper portion of the plume and then into the trap such that insects are attracted to the outflow and flying along the upper portion of the plume towards the trap will intersect the inflow and be drawn into the inflow as discussed in column 2, lines 28-68 and column 8, lines 43-55.

Cheshire shows a fan 19 with motor 25 that generates both the inflow and the outflow. Cheshire shows a cover member 11-13. Fig. 4 of Cheshire shows insects being sucked into the trap. Column 9, lines 47-49 recite that the exhaust flow from the trap contributes to the upward flight reflex to entrap insects such as mosquitoes in the inflow. Since both the motor that operates the fan and the light are in the outflow, heat from these elements is moved by convection currents

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functions as an attractant. The light acts as an attractant without the airflow, but heat from the light and the fan motor add to the effect in conjunction with the airflow. In reference to claim 28, Cheshire shows a cover 11, 12, 13 so that the edge portion of the cover is spaced from tubular member 15 to define an inlet opening as shown in Fig. 4.

Cheshire discloses the use of a collection bag in column 4, lines 31-32 which would appear to be mounted on the outside of the lower portion of the housing 15 which can be considered as a tubular member. In reference to claim 9, Cheshire does not disclose mounting an insect trap on the inside of the tubular member, but it would have been obvious to mount the trap on the inside member since the function is the same and not stated problem is solved noting that the rearrangement of part is deemed to be an obvious matter of design choice. See *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70. In reference to claim 19, Cheshire shows a single fan, but it would have been obvious to employ more than one fan for multiplied effect. See *In re Harza*, In reference to claim 20, Cheshire shows one fan for generating both the inflow and the outflow, but given that it would have been obvious to employ two fan for multiplied effect, it would have further been obvious to employ one fan in the inflow and one fan in the outflow to tailor the fan speeds to each flow to optimize them to catch the most insects. In reference to claim 21, Cheshire discloses a catch bag in column 4, lines 31-33, but does not disclose if the bag is flexible mesh. However, it would have been obvious to employ flexible mesh to catch the insects and let the outflow pass through the

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bag. The examiner takes Official notice that flexible mesh structures are old and well known in the art to catch insects.

Response to Amendment

5. The declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed November 4, 2004 is insufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 1-123 based upon commercial success as set forth in the last Office action because:

6. It include(s) statements which amount to an affirmation that the claimed subject matter functions as it was intended to function. This is not relevant to the issue of nonobviousness of the claimed subject matter and provides no objective evidence thereof. See MPEP § 716. There are no facts relating to market share or advertising expenses so how can statements concerning commercial success be given any weight.

7. In view of the foregoing, when all of the evidence is considered, the totality of the rebuttal evidence of nonobviousness fails to outweigh the evidence of obviousness.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed November 4, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's response overcomes the objections to claims 73-74. The terminal disclaimer filed with the response will be processed in due course. Applicant argues that Cheshire does not teach the counterflow relationship recited in Independent claims 1, 24, 39 and 50. However, Cheshire shows the same structure so the relationship between the inflow and the outflow would be the same. Cheshire has an airflow generator that generates an inflow

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of air to the trap. The fan also generates an outflow from the trap in a counter flow relationship outside of the trap. Inherently a region of the inflow overlaps an region of the outflow since the flows are concentric over part of the flow regions with the inflow being in a upper direction and the outflow being downward. Due to boundary effects, both flows will have a horizontal component the further they are away from the trap. Applicant's arguments with respect to Cheshire not having an insect attractant in the outflow have been noted but are deemed moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. Applicant's remarks concerning commercial success have been noted, but it should be pointed out that the term "commercial success" is a relative term and the response is simply lacking in facts as to market share and advertising. Without market share data, the fact that the traps sell for 10-25 times the price of other devices on the market is meaningless since the other devices on the market could have 10-25 times the market share of the present invention. As far as advertising, it is noted that on some items, the cost of advertising can be a large part of the total cost of the item which would lead one to conclude that advertising is why the product has sold, not the merits of the product. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958

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F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the motivation to combine the reference is found in the reference themselves since Waters teaches using carbon dioxide to attract insects.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kurt Rowan whose telephone number is 703 308-2321. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on 703 308-2574. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Rowan", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kurt Rowan
Primary Examiner
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